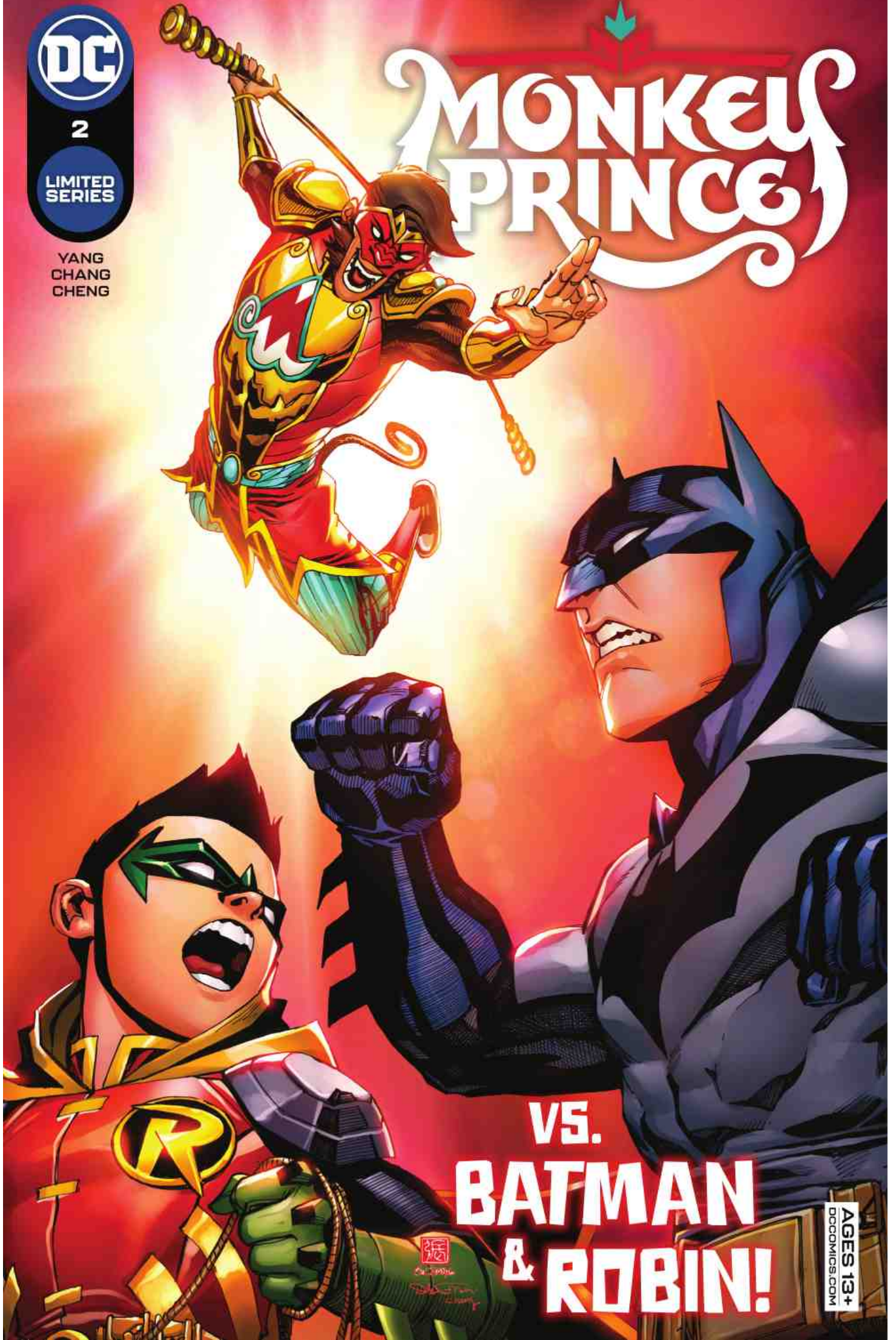




YANG  
CHANG  
CHENG

# MONKEY PRINCE



VS.  
**BATMAN  
& ROBIN!**

AGES 13+  
DCCOMICS.COM





2



WILSON  
TAKARA  
PRIANTO

# POISON IVY

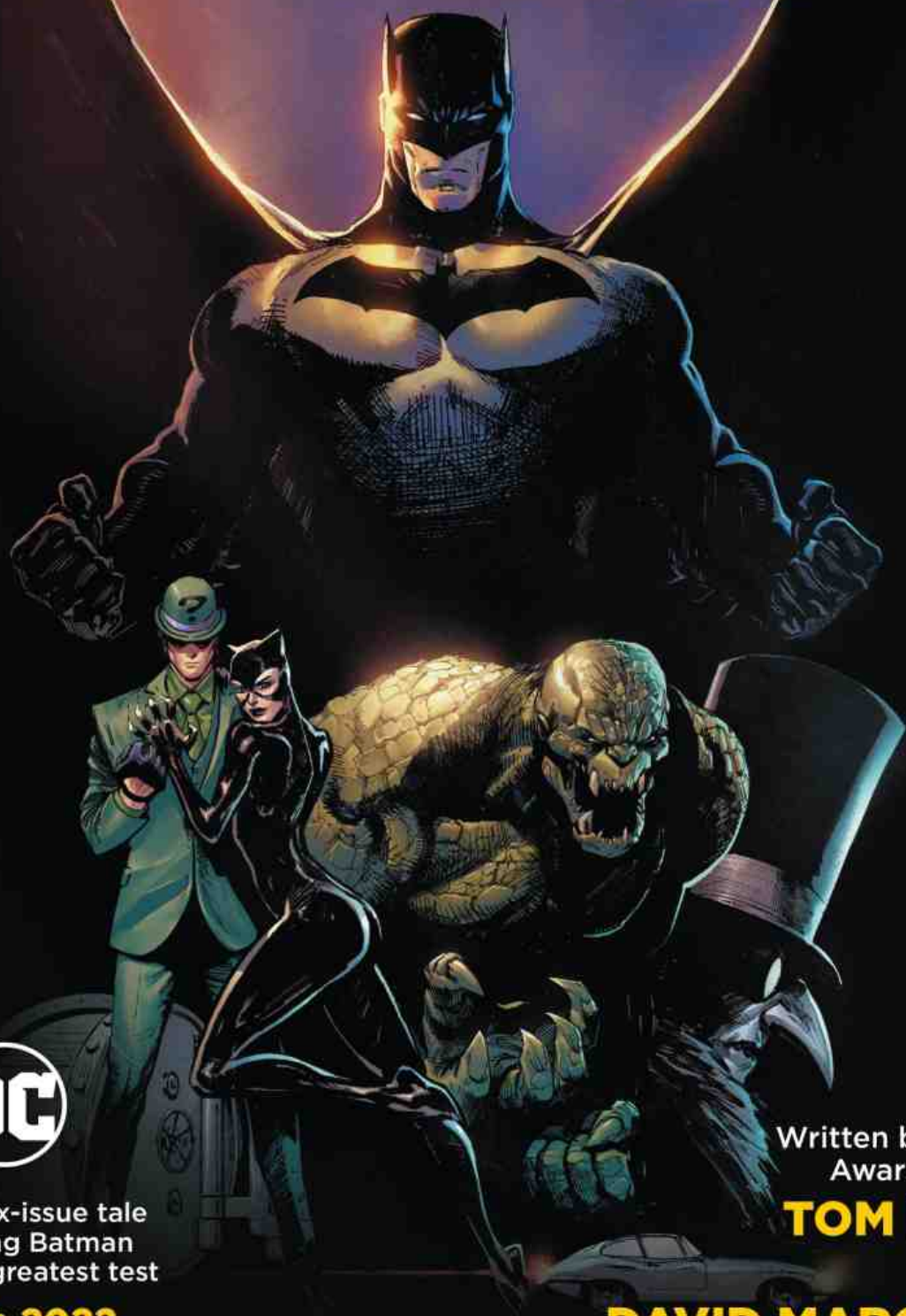


AGES 13+  
DCCOMICS.COM



It's the heist of the century...if they can make it out  
of Gotham and escape the Dark Knight.

# BATMAN: KILLING TIME



An epic six-issue tale  
of a young Batman  
facing his greatest test

**March 2022**

Written by Eisner  
Award winner

**TOM KING**

Art by

**DAVID MARQUEZ**



# BLACK ADAM

THE JUSTICE SOCIETY FILES

THE OFFICIAL  
PRELUDES TO THE  
BLACK ADAM  
MOVIE!

BLACK ADAM -  
THE JUSTICE  
SOCIETY FILES:  
HAWKMAN #1  
JULY

EACH ISSUE ARRIVES  
WITH A PHOTO VARIANT COVER  
FEATURING THE STARS OF THE FILM!

BLACK ADAM -  
THE JUSTICE SOCIETY  
FILES: DR. FATE #1  
OCTOBER

BLACK ADAM -  
THE JUSTICE SOCIETY  
FILES: CYCLONE #1  
AUGUST

BLACK ADAM -  
THE JUSTICE  
SOCIETY FILES:  
ATOM SMASHER #1  
SEPTEMBER

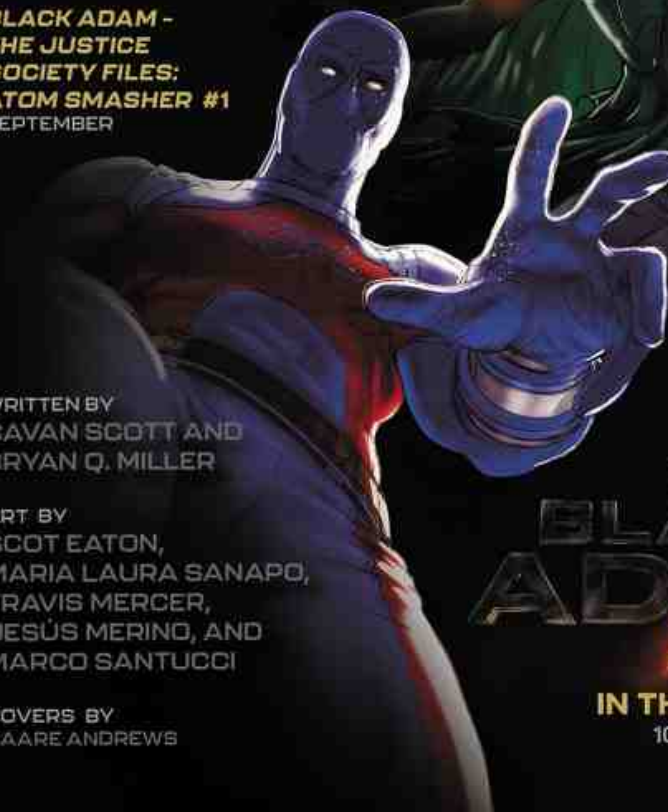
WRITTEN BY  
CAVAN SCOTT AND  
BRYAN Q. MILLER

ART BY  
SCOT EATON,  
MARIA LAURA SANAPO,  
TRAVIS MERCER,  
JESÚS MERINO, AND  
MARCO SANTUCCI

COVERS BY  
KAARE ANDREWS

DC  
BLACK  
ADAM

IN THEATERS  
10.21.22





Gotham High School.

EEEEEE!



GOT IT,  
BATMAN!

BATMAN,  
LOOK! IT'S STILL  
TWITCHING!

HA HA!

OH  
GOD.



CAN'T  
BREATHE...

AND  
TALKING!

IT MUST BE  
SOME SORT  
OF *MAGIC*--WE'LL  
ASSESS LATER.  
RIGHT NOW, STAY  
FOCUSED!



C-COME  
ON, GET IT  
*T-TOGETHER*!  
THE RIZ DOESN'T  
GET *SCARED*!  
THE RIZ *NEVER*  
GETS  
SC-SC-SC--

EXCUSE  
ME, YOUNG  
MAN--



FIVE MINUTES AGO,  
I WAS USING MY NEW  
*MONKEY POWERS* TO  
DISH OUT SOME *SWEET*  
*JUSTICE* TO A BUNCH OF  
DIPWAD LACROSSE  
PLAYERS.

BUT THEN  
*BATMAN* SHOWS  
UP AND ACCIDENTALLY  
CUTS OFF MY HEAD  
WITH ONE OF HIS DUMB  
BATARANGS.

*I FREAKING  
HATE BATMAN.*

HE'S STILL  
*ALIVE!* AND A *THREAT*!  
ROBIN, I'LL NEUTRALIZE THE  
*BODY!* YOU SECURE  
THE *HEAD!*





*Never say I  
hate the world,  
or anything in it.*

*I love the world.  
I love every  
root and seed.  
I love every  
little pollinating  
insect.*

*And I love you.*

*It's just that those  
are the only two  
things that I love.*

*One very big, the  
other very small.*















Sometimes people ask  
me if I'm a vegetarian.

The stupidest  
possible question.  
Let me tell you why.



NEW  
MEXICO.  
NOT LONG AGO.

Do you have any idea  
how environmentally  
catastrophic modern  
agave farming is?

In nature, agave  
plants are pollinated  
by long-nosed bats.

Please don't  
hurt me!  
I HAVEN'T  
DONE ANYTHING  
WRONG!

Making agave syrup for  
rich vegans requires killing  
thousands of mature agave  
plants at a time.

ATTACK.

In order to grow the plants quickly,  
farmers use sterile offshoots  
that produce no flowers.









Without flowering plants, the long-nosed bats die off. The ecosystem loses a crucial pollinator.

Monoculture destroys the soil. Even the genetic makeup of the agave plants degrades, leaving them open to blight and infection.



None of this stops vegetarians from buying that murder syrup by the quart.

Mmmm.

Or from feeling like they really did something by giving up chicken.



So yeah. Not a vegetarian.

In fact, you might say I'm a carnivore.



A healthy ecosystem needs predators to keep plant-eating prey species from overwhelming the Earth.

Look at what deer will do to a forest without wolves to keep them in check.













GUST  
OF WIND  
FROM IMMORTAL  
PORCINE  
EARS!

HWOOOOOSH!

JUST IN  
TIME!

COUGH!

WHEEZE!

COVER YOUR  
FACE!

OH, NEVER  
MIND, I'LL  
DO IT!

WE'VE NEVER  
FACED THESE *VILLAINS*,  
ROBIN! DISCOVERING A  
NEW *OPPONENT'S*  
WEAKNESSES REQUIRES  
INTENSE *FOCUS*!

WAIT.  
YOU'RE SAYING  
THIS WAS *MY*  
FAULT?!





POETRY IS  
WORKING OUT  
GREAT.

IT'S JUST  
THAT NOBODY  
APPRECIATES  
IT ENOUGH  
TO PAY  
FOR IT.



FOR  
EXAMPLE...

I GET REALLY  
EXCITED ABOUT  
SOMETHING.  
VIKING HISTORY.  
LET'S SAY.



DID YOU KNOW THEY  
THOUGHT HUMAN BEINGS  
WERE DESCENDED  
FROM TREES?

I DID,  
IN FACT.

IT'S SO COOL!  
TREES HAVE A  
TRUNK AND BRANCHES.  
HUMANS HAVE A TRUNK-  
LIKE LITERALLY WE CALL  
THE TORSO A TRUNK--  
AND ARMS--



SO I READ ALL THESE  
BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY,  
AND I SPEND ALL THIS  
TIME THINKING, AND  
THE RESULT IS...



*Their arms  
scaled in lichen,  
reaching out  
To claw back  
the indifferent sky.*



THAT'S  
IT. TWO  
LINES.

*This is why  
poets never  
make any  
money.*



THE ICEBERG LOUNGE. GOTHAM'S HOTTEST NIGHTCLUB. HEADQUARTERS OF THE PENGUIN.

MR. PENGUIN?

MR. PENGUIN, DR. SHUGEL-SHEN AND I BELIEVE WE'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT WENT *WRONG* WITH THE MACHINE YESTER--

WINSTON, IS THAT *GARY* FROM SYSTEMS PROCUREMENT...?!

HE'S COMPLETELY *DRIED OUT!*

THERE ARE *MORE* OF THEM!

*SLURP!*

BOSS? ARE YOU--?

SHHH!

*GLUG! GLUG!*

*SKWAK! :-*















H-HOW ARE WE NOT FALLING THROUGH THIS CLOUD?

NEVER MIND *THAT*, MARCUS. *PAY ATTENTION* TO WHAT I'M SAYING!



YOUR *FEAR* ALMOST GOT YOU *KILLED* TODAY! YOU MUST LEARN TO HANDLE IT *PROPERLY*!

FIRST, YOU MUST *RECOGNIZE* WHEN IT'S BEGINNING TO--



YOU KNOW WHAT *ACTUALLY* ALMOST GOT ME KILLED?

*BATMAN!* AND YOU, MR. ZHU!

I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME *SHIFU PIGGY*.



WELL, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, MR. ZHU, AND I'VE DECIDED THAT I *LIKE* MY FEAR! IT KEEPS ME OUT OF SITUATIONS WHERE I MIGHT GET MY HEAD *CHOPPED OFF*!



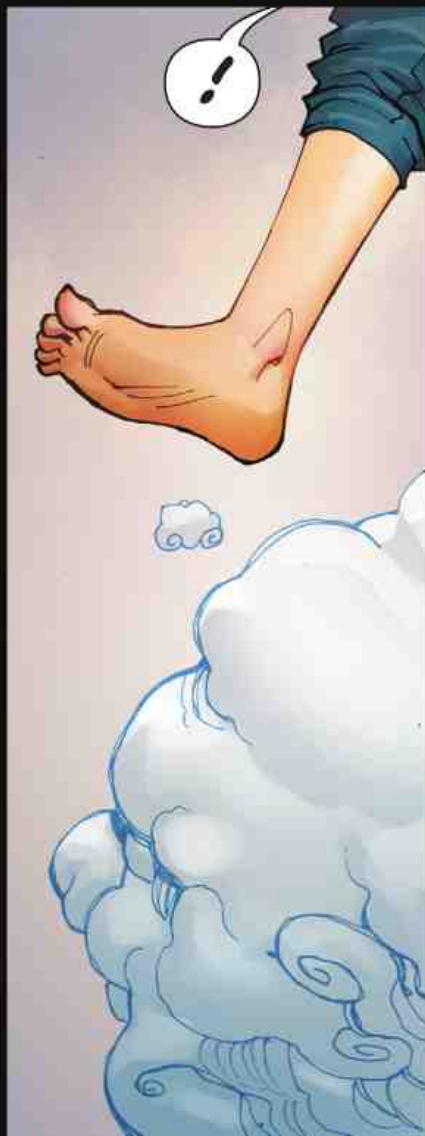
MARCUS, YOUR WORLD IS FACING A *GRAVE DANGER*! WE ARE ALL COUNTING ON YOU TO--

I DON'T GIVE A CRAP!















# THE HOME OF THE SHUGEL-SHEN'S.



I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S *REAL* ANYMORE.

DID MR. ZHU *REALLY* TURN INTO A PIG MAN?



SWEETIE, YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN A SINGLE BITE OF DINNER.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SON?

DID I *REALLY* TURN INTO A MAGIC MONKEY?



I...I'M FINE.

BUT THEN AS SOON AS THE *CHEESY, FAMILIAR TASTE* OF MY MOM'S CASSEROLE HITS ME...



...I REALIZE THERE'S *ONE THING* I'M SURE IS *REAL*: MY *FAMILY*.



MY TWO *BRILLIANT*, AND BRILLIANTLY *BORING*, FREELANCE-SCIENTIST PARENTS WOULD DO ANYTHING TO KEEP ME SAFE.

ARE YOU STILL UPSET ABOUT THE *POOL INCIDENT*?\* DID ANYTHING ELSE HAPPEN?

NAH, NOT REALLY.

\*HE ALMOST DROWNED LAST ISSUE! --JESS



HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS? ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN AT WORK?

NOPE.

NOTHING INTERESTING AT ALL.

I'VE NEVER FELT MORE *GRATEFUL* THAT I WAS ADOPTED BY TWO SUCH *NORMAL* PEOPLE.









## THE SEWERS UNDERNEATH GOTHAM.



I'M SURE WE'VE  
SEEN *WORSE*,  
COMMISSIONER. IN FACT,  
JUST THIS AFTERNOON,  
BATMAN CUT OFF--

THAT'S  
ENOUGH,  
ROBIN.

OUR PEOPLE THINK  
THE PERP BROUGHT THEM  
HERE FOR *DISPOSAL ONLY*.  
THE ACTUAL *DEEDS* WERE  
DONE AT SOME *OTHER*  
LOCATION.



HRM. AN  
UNFAMILIAR *MODUS*  
*OPERANDI*.

IT SEEMS  
THAT GOTHAM CITY  
HAS A *BRAND-NEW*  
SERIAL KILLER.









I WAKE UP FEELING  
BETTER THAN I HAVE  
IN A LONG WHILE.



YESTERDAY  
SEEMS LIKE A *DISTANT*  
MEMORY.



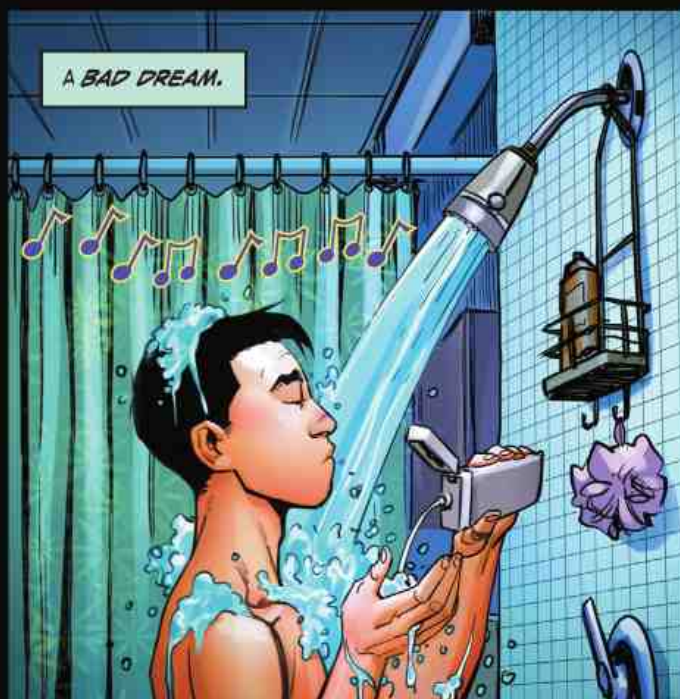
A *BAD DREAM.*



YEAH.  
THAT'S WHAT  
IT WAS.



THAT'S  
WHAT IT *HAD*  
TO BE.



A *BAD DREAM.*











*I shouldn't intervene  
in this nonsense.*

*I should be out in the  
parking lot trying to  
hit as many frightened  
dinner guests as I can.*

*But you know me.  
I can't resist  
cute, blue-eyed  
criminals.*

Okay.  
Here's how  
it's going  
to go.

When I tell  
you to start  
walking toward the  
door, you start  
walking, okay?

But--

No  
arguments.

Just do  
as I say  
and you  
go free.

Okay.  
Okay.



I'M  
COMING  
OUT! DON'T  
SHOOT!



Cops.

**STOP!**

**STAY WHERE  
YOU  
ARE!**

*Always in the  
damn way.*







SECURITY FOOTAGE CORROBORATES HER STORY. THIS WAS TAKEN SHORTLY AFTER THE MAN WITH THE MONKEY FACE EXITED THE PREMISES.

YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL'S SECURITY FOOTAGE?

THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.



BUT HOW CAN THIS BE? I'M THE MAN WITH THE MONKEY FACE!



TELL ME, MARCUS, WHY DID YOU JUMP IN THAT POOL?

IT--IT WAS JUST A STUPID DARE!

WHO DARED YOU?

N-NOBODY!

MR. ZHU DARED ME. Y'KNOW, THE SCHOOL JANITOR WHO'S SECRETLY A PERSON-SHAPED PIG.



THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE A NOBODY, NEW KID! HA!



YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT, RIZ!

NOT WHAT YOUR MOM SAID, KAYA!

YOU KNOW THAT'S A TERRIBLE COMEBACK, RIGHT?!



WAS IT HIM? DID RIZALINO MAYLED DARE YOU?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE DARED ME?

THAT'S HIS REPUTATION, ISN'T IT?





The *lamia* spores are so fine as to be nearly invisible.

SURELY, WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT, BOYS.

I chase them up with a small dose of pheromone.

Just to keep the boys occupied.



They don't even notice as the *lamia* spores penetrate their soft tissues.



This time, I wake the spores up immediately.

KAF  
KAF  
KAF

WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
HIM? WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?



START  
WALKING.

She thinks  
I've saved  
her life.

I HAVE NO  
IDEA HOW YOU  
PULLED THAT  
OFF, BLIT--

--YOU'RE  
MY HERO,  
PAM-IN-  
LAND-  
SCAPING.

And I  
suppose I  
have. For a  
few hours.

THUD  
THUD



The policemen are  
calm as death  
slips over them.

They feel no pain,  
no fear. In fact,  
they feel some-  
thing like bliss.



Jenny is right.

Night-  
night, little  
piggies.

I am a hero.  
In my own way.





I HAVE TO TAKE THIS. I'LL FIND YOU IF I HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT **MONKEY FACE**.

BEEP! BEEP!

PRETTY SURE THAT'S NOT HIS NAME!

WHO KNEW A FRESHMAN COULD BE SO **INTENSE**, HUH?



MARCUS, YOU PUTTING ON A COSTUME MONKEY TAIL AND JUMPING IN THE POOL, THEN THAT **MONKEY MAN** COMING OUT...

TELL ME WHAT'S **REALLY** GOING ON. IT WASN'T JUST A DARE, WAS IT?

IT WASN'T. IT WAS, UM... HOW I RELIEVE **STRESS**. IT'S LIKE **SKINNY-DIPPING**, ONLY WITH MY CLOTHES ON.

I CALL IT, UH... **CHUBBY-DIPPING**.



HA. YOU'RE **FUNNY**.

LISTEN, **WHATEVER'S** HAPPENING, LET ME KNOW IF YOU EVER WANNA TALK, OKAY? I **CARE** ABOUT YOU, MARCUS.

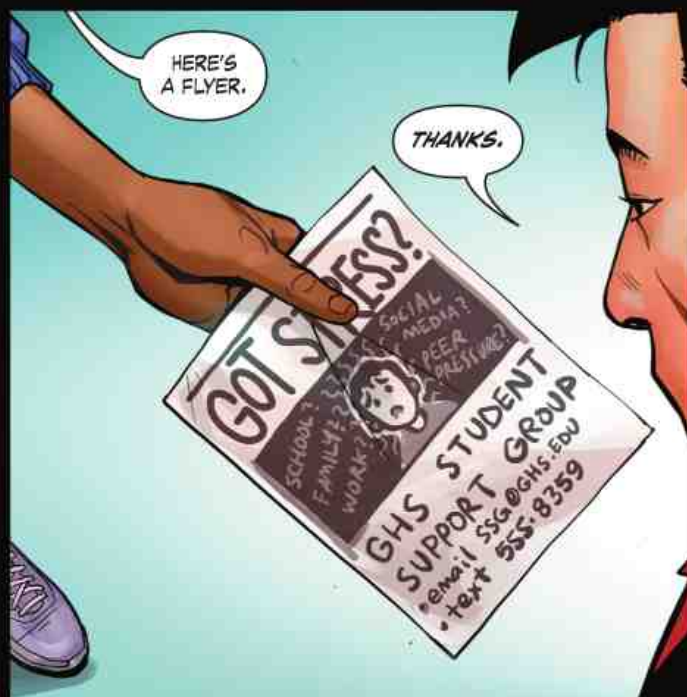
R-REALLY?



YEAH. I'M PART OF THE **PEER COUNSELING CLUB**. WE CARE ABOUT **EVERYONE**.

OH.

BUMP!



HERE'S A FLYER.

THANKS.

**GOT STRESS?**  
SCHOOL? FAMILY? PEER PRESSURE?  
SOCIAL MEDIA?  
WORK?  
**GHS STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP**  
• email ssg@ghs.edu  
• text 555-8359



I'M WILLING TO BET **TALKING** WORKS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN "**CHUBBY-DIPPING**." SEE YA.



But I can't waste  
my time like this.

Being a character in  
other people's stories.

I don't have a  
lot of time left.

I can't get attached  
to people who are  
just going to d--

--The hairs on  
the back of my  
neck stand up.

Someone--  
something--  
is out there.

And it's not  
more police.

But nothing emerges  
from the darkness.

The toxin from the  
lamia spores is building  
up in my blood, making  
me jump at noth--

KKASH

?





**CHUBBY-DIPPING?! DID I REALLY JUST SAY THAT?!**

**SO STUPID!**



**?!**

**THOSE BURP CLOUDS AGAIN?!**

**WHAT IS GOING ON WITH MY LIFE?!**



**SHOO! CAN'T YOU GUYS GO BOTHER SOMEBODY ELSE?**

**LIKE HOW ABOUT THAT DIPWAD OVER THERE?**



**WHOA! THE CLOUDS ACTUALLY OBEYED MY THOUGHTS!**

**HA!**

**HUH? WHERE'S ALL THIS SMOKE COMING FROM?!**



**WHAT THE HELL?!**

**CHECK OUT RIZ! 420 ON CAMPUS AGAIN?**

**I ASSURE YOU, FATHER, I AM FOCUSED!**



**THOSE CLOUDS... LOOK EXACTLY LIKE THE ONE MONKEY FACE WAS RIDING ON!**

**DAMIAN? WHAT CLOUDS?**

**YOU KNOW WHAT, FATHER? I'M SO FOCUSED, I ALREADY HAVE A LEAD!**









MR. ZHU!  
WHERE'VE YOU  
BEEN?!

I SAW WHAT  
YOU DID TO POOR  
RIZ, MARCUS. I'M  
DISAPPOINTED.



POOR RIZ...? THE CLOUD  
RESPONDS TO MY *THOUGHTS*!  
I CAN'T HELP WHAT I *THINK*!  
BESIDES, YOU KNOW HOW BIG  
OF A *BULLY* THAT  
GUY IS?!

NOW  
THAT YOU ARE  
THE *MONKEY  
PRINCE*, YOU ARE  
*STRONGER*  
THAN HIM.

THAT  
MAKES *YOU*  
THE *BULLY*.



MARCUS,  
YOUR POWERS  
ARE FOR THE SAKE  
OF *OTHERS*, NOT  
*YOURSELF*.

TAKE *ME*,  
FOR EXAMPLE!  
YESTERDAY I USED  
MY *SHAPE-CHANGING  
POWER* TO COVER  
FOR YOUR *SECRET  
IDENTITY*!

SO THAT  
WAS *YOU* CRAWLING  
OUT OF THE POOL IN  
THAT VIDEO!



YES, THAT WAS  
ME IN THE FORM OF  
*CHUBBY-DIPPING  
CHAMPION* MARCUS  
SHUGEL-SHEN!  
*HA HA!*

WITH *CHARM* LIKE  
THAT, YOU'LL *NEVER*  
GET A GIRLFRIEND!  
*HA HA!*

YOU'LL  
DIE *ALONE*!  
*HA HA!*

PLEASE  
*STOP*,  
MR. ZHU!

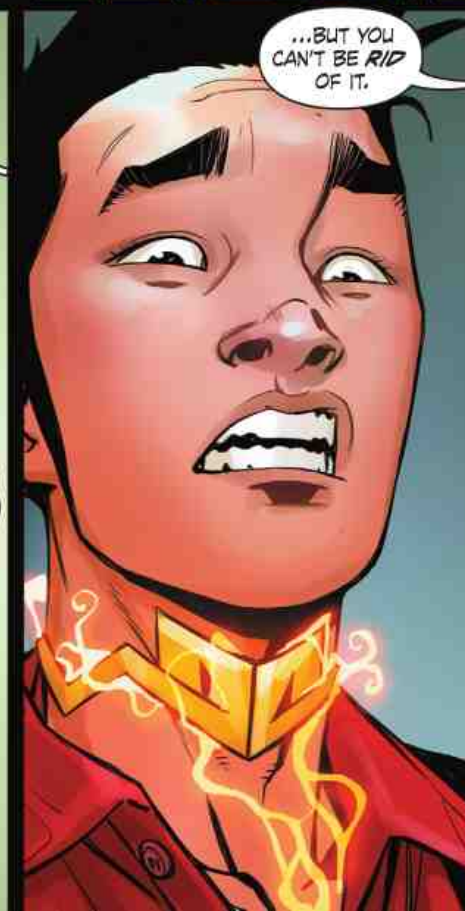
I NEED  
YOU TO TAKE THIS  
THING OFF ME!  
IT'S *CHAFING*!



YOU CAN  
WEAR THE  
*CIRCLET*...



...ANYWHERE  
ON YOUR  
*BODY*...



...BUT YOU  
CAN'T BE *RID*  
OF IT.













I TOLD  
YOU YOU  
WERE MAKING  
A MISTAKE.

EDEN  
A SHORT  
WHILE AGO.

YOU'VE  
STOLEN  
SOMETHING  
YOU CAN'T  
CONTROL.

YOU HAVE NO  
IDEA WHAT  
I'M CAPABLE  
OF.

YOU'VE ALWAYS  
TRIED TO HOLD ME  
BACK. YOU DON'T  
WANT ME TO TAKE  
THE STEP YOU  
COULDN'T.

YOU ARE  
UNBELIEVABLE,  
ISLEY.

YOU'LL  
LISTEN TO  
ANYTHING  
BUT THE  
TRUTH.

THAT THING  
INSIDE YOU WILL  
KILL YOU LONG  
BEFORE YOU'VE  
MANAGED TO  
KILL OFF THE  
ENTIRE HUMAN  
RACE.

THIS WHOLE  
CRUSADE OF  
YOURS? IT'S  
NOT ABOUT  
SAVING THE  
GREEN.

IT'S  
ABOUT  
YOUR OWN  
RAGE.





THAT'S IT, MONKEY PRINCE!

NOW TAKE THE ENVELOPE FROM ME!

WOOO!  
I CAN  
FLY!

"WHY IS IT NOT  
ENOUGH?!"

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS...

# ENTER THE MONKEY

PART 2 OF 4

GENE LUENYANG 楊謹倫 writer • BERNARD CHANG 張伯納 artist  
SEBASTIAN CHENG 鍾偉傑 colorist • JANICE CHIANG 蔣慧珍 letterer  
JESSICA CHEN 陳穎珊 editor • BEN ABERNATHY group editor  
BATMAN created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER







## THE ICEBERG LOUNGE.

I'VE CONSUMED  
THE *QI* OF DOZENS OF  
THESE HUMANS!

WHY  
AM I STILL  
RACKED WITH  
HUNGER?!

SSKWAAAK!E

SSSERVANTS OF  
THE GREAT RULER OF  
FLAME PLANET!

SSSIR,  
OUR MASSSTER  
WISSSES  
TO OFFER  
ADVICE.

WHO ARE  
YOU?!

SSKWAK!E

WATCH  
CAREFULLY.





*Gotta keep thinking  
happy thoughts.*

*Remember our  
little road trip?*



*I spent most of it  
as a houseplant.*



*But I remember  
everything.*

EXIT 66



*I remember your breathing.  
In and out. Your breath  
becoming my breath.*

*I miss you.*





GREETINGS,  
GOLDEN HORN  
PENGUIN!

IT WAS I WHO  
ORCHESTRATED  
YOUR PRESENT  
FORM!

I WHOM  
YOU SHALL CALL  
MASTER!

SKWAAAK!



M-MASTER,  
WHY DO I  
HUNGER SO?

ANCIENT WISDOM  
TEACHES THAT WE  
DEMONS HAVE BUT ONE  
PATH TO IMMORTAL  
POWER: WE MUST  
CONSUME A SAINT  
OR A HERO!

IN OUR CURRENT  
TIMES, THE EIGHT IMMORTAL  
POWERS HAVE BEEN DISPERSED  
AMONGST THE HEROES OF THIS  
REALM! CONSUME ENOUGH  
OF THEM, AND WE SHALL BE  
UNSTOPPABLE!



UNFORTUNATELY,  
SSSPIES ABOUND!  
NEWSSS OF MASSSTER'S  
PLAN HAS SSSSPREAD  
FAR AND WIDE AND  
DEEP!

AND NOW  
DEMONSSS OF  
OTHER TRIBESS  
DESSSIRE WHAT  
WE DESSIRE!



WHICH IS WHY YOU  
MUST HURRY, GOLDEN  
HORN PENGUIN! GO SATIATE  
YOUR HUNGER, STARTING  
WITH THE HERO OF THIS  
VERY CITY!



BATMAN!

NEXT: First Lesson—  
CLOUD FLYING!



*I wish you were  
here with me.*

*Here at the end  
of the world.*

**M TEL**

# POISON IVY

DC COMICS  
PRESENTS

CHAPTER TWO.

*Writer*

**G. WILLOW WILSON**

*Artist*

**MARCIO TAKARA**

*Colors*

**ARIF PRIANTO**

*Letters*

**HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU**

*Cover*

**JESSICA FONG**

*Variant covers*

**JENNY FRISON, CLAIRE ROE  
& CHRISTIAN WARD**

*1:25 variant cover*

**ÁLVARO MARTÍNEZ BUENO**

*1:50 variant cover*

**SWEENEY BOO**

*1:100 variant cover*

**JENNY FRISON**

*Group editor*

**BEN ABERNATHY**

*Editor*

**ARIANNA TURTURRO**

*Assistant editor*

**JESSICA BERBEY**

**NEXT:  
YARD  
WORK.**





2013 © DC

# THE BATMAN

ONLY IN THEATERS MARCH 4

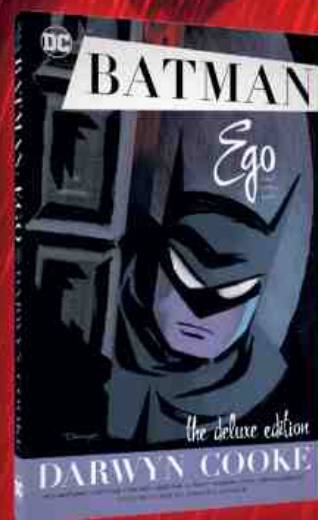
PREPARE FOR THE MOVIE BY READING THESE CLASSIC GRAPHIC NOVELS



**BATMAN:  
YEAR ONE**



**BATMAN: THE LONG  
HALLOWEEN**



**BATMAN: EGO AND  
OTHER TAILS**



She destroyed her past.  
Now it's time to face the future.

# ARTEMIS -WANTED-

Written by  
**VITA AYALA**

Art by  
**SKYLAR PATRIDGE**

Cover by  
**MATTEO SCALERA**



July

One-shot  
aftermath of  
TRIAL OF THE  
**AMAZONS**



DC NATION INTERVIEW

# MATT REEVES

THE DIRECTOR OF

THE



## WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH WHEN STARTING THE FILM?

The great thing about Batman: it's such a psychological story. And so this whole idea of the emotional pursuit of what he's after and what he's willing to do to get there, and how he turns into his shadow self—that sort of complexity, I think, is really unique to Batman. At the end of the day, what I wanted was a Batman who was exceedingly human. I wanted you to see this guy who does these amazing things, but in a way, his scars are his biggest strength. What happened to him made him perfectly suited to be the person who will push himself to any length, because it's the only way he can make meaning out of his life.

## WHAT COMICS DID YOU LOOK TO AS INSPIRATION FOR THE FILM?

While we're not doing *The Long Halloween*, the idea that we're doing a serial killer story that is also a story about Batman where we go on a personal journey with him, that was very inspiring to me. That story and *Dark Victory* and *Hush* were really important in the beginning of all this. As was Darwyn Cooke's *Ego*, with its great psychological understanding of the character.

## WHAT WAS YOUR TAKE ON BRUCE WAYNE?

We'd already seen Bruce as the ultra-rich playboy, but I wanted him to feel almost like a fallen American prince. I wanted him to be someone whose parents had been larger than life, philanthropic figures who everyone revered as Gotham royalty. And in the wake of their tragic deaths, instead of fostering the image of the storied Waynes, he completely withdrew and became what I saw as an almost rockstar-like recluse. I saw him kind of like Kurt Cobain.

## CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE VILLAINS?

I wanted to see a Batman film that was not an origin tale, but was about his early days. That meant a lot of the characters who are the rogues gallery characters would be in their origin phases. So we have a Selina Kyle who's not yet Catwoman, but you can see all of the pieces. And we have a Penguin who's not yet the kingpin, but you can see the seeds of that as well. In the comics, what's so interesting and fun is that many of those characters, ironically, are inspired by the presence of this masked vigilante. And they become their own alter egos of themselves in this kind of darker way. So there's a real dialogue between Batman and the rogues gallery.



IN THEATERS BEGINNING  
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# Zatanna

THE JEWEL OF GRAVESEND

## Interview with Alys Arden and Jacquelin de Leon

Writer Alys Arden and artist Jacquelin de Leon reinvent DC's most beloved magician as a teenager coming into her own in the new young adult graphic novel *Zatanna: The Jewel of Gravesend*—and the titular jewel will unravel everything Zatanna thought she knew about herself and her beloved New York neighborhood.

### What is the concept for *Zatanna: The Jewel of Gravesend*?

**Alys Arden:** The story is about a young Zatanna who's always been in the shadow of her master illusionist father. She's quite content to stay behind the camera, but as Zatanna comes into her magic she's also going to have to step into the limelight.

**Jacquelin de Leon:** I had lots of fun drawing her attitude! I included lots of eye-rolling, which was my favorite part. Of course, designing and modernizing Zatanna's clothes for a teenager was also really fun.



### How did you re-create the story's real-world setting of Coney Island on the page?

**de Leon:** I loved designing all the weirdness around Coney Island. I wanted to make sure the color palette reflected how magical the story was. I included a lot of lights, glows, and sunsets.



### Backward dialogue is a fundamental part of the Zatanna mythos. What was it like to write that?

**Arden:** It was a mind trip. We wanted mirror-script to be a fundamental part of the story. We included a lot of written versions of it. I really had to think about not only what it looked like in dialogue, but how it would appear in a window, mirror, etc.

### What do you want readers to take away from this story?

**Arden:** We see lots of different versions of family in this story. I believe that all types of family can be equally strong and lasting, and I'm glad readers get to experience that in this.

**de Leon:** I hope it inspires a lot of young girls to be themselves. They shouldn't be afraid to embrace anything weird about them, because Zatanna is very different and interesting.



**Don't miss  
*Zatanna: The Jewel  
of Gravesend*,  
on sale in July!**

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

